

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for performing a surgical procedure with a robotic
2 surgical system comprising:
3 providing a plurality of surgical instrument assemblies each comprising a
4 wrist unit having a shaft with a proximal end and a distal wrist, and an instrument coupled
5 to the distal wrist;
6 connecting the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of one of the surgical
7 instrument assemblies to a manipulator arm; and
8 introducing the instrument of said one of the surgical instrument
9 assemblies to a treatment site on a patient with the manipulator arm.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising removing the instrument
2 of said one of the surgical instrument assemblies from the treatment site and
3 disconnecting the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of said one of the surgical
4 instrument assemblies from the manipulator arm.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising connecting the proximal
2 end of the wrist unit shaft of another one of the surgical instrument assemblies to the
3 manipulator arm, and introducing the instrument of said another one of the surgical
4 instrument assemblies to the treatment site with the manipulator arm.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising pivoting the instrument
2 about the distal wrist of the wrist unit shaft.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 shielding the manipulator arm from the treatment site with a sterile drape;
3 attaching a sterile adaptor to the manipulator arm through the sterile drape;
4 and
5 attaching the proximal end of the wrist unit shaft of said one of the surgical
6 instrument assemblies to the sterile adaptor.